



Federal Bureau of  
Investigation

Special  
Event  
Threat  
Assessment

**(U//~~FOUO~~) 2013 Boston Marathon  
Special Event Threat Assessment  
Boston, Massachusetts**



Prepared by

FBI

Boston Division

1 April 2013

(U//~~FOUO~~) This information is the property of the FBI and may be distributed to state, tribal, or local law enforcement officials with a need-to-know. Further distribution without FBI authorization is prohibited. Precautions should be taken to ensure this information is stored and/or destroyed in a manner that precludes unauthorized access.

**(U) 117<sup>th</sup> Boston Marathon**

**(U) Scope Note**

(U//~~FOUO~~) The FBI Boston Intelligence Branch prepared the following SETA on the 2013 Boston Marathon to inform Massachusetts law enforcement, intelligence, and public safety officials of possible threats to this upcoming special event. Information in this assessment is current as of 1 April 2013. The assessment [REDACTED]

b7E

[REDACTED] Comments and queries may be addressed to the FBI Boston Intelligence Branch at [REDACTED]

(U//~~FOUO~~) This assessment [REDACTED]

b7E

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED] The information contained in this assessment is [REDACTED]

**(U) Special Event Assessment Rating Definitions**

(U) This threat assessment uses the [REDACTED]

b7E

(U) [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

(U) [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

(U) [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

(U) [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

(U) [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

(U//~~FOUO~~) This event has been designated [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

b7E

**(U) Executive Summary**

(U//~~FOUO~~) The City of Boston, Massachusetts, is hosting the 117th Boston Marathon on 15 April 2013. **The FBI Boston Division has no credible, specific information indicating an imminent threat to the Boston Marathon from international or domestic terrorists, extremist groups, or by individuals' intent on using weapons of mass destruction (WMD).** However, the large crowds of spectators and tourists present in and around Boston for this prominent event

b7E

**(U) Event Overview**

(U) The Boston Athletic Association will be hosting the 117th Boston Marathon on 15 April 2013. Like the past three events, the start of the 2013 race will be staggered. The mobility impaired entrants will begin the race at approximately 9:00 am, followed by the wheelchair division, which will begin the race at approximately 9:17 am. Following the wheelchair entrants, the elite women will start the race at approximately 9:32 am. The rest of the field, including the elite men, will be divided into three separate “waves.” Each “wave” will consist of approximately 9,000 participants and have color coded bibs. “Wave 1,” to include the elite men, will start the race at 10:00 am and will be wearing blue bibs. “Wave 2,” to include the rest of the field, will start the race at 10:20 am and will be wearing white bibs. “Wave 3” will start the race at 10:40 am and will be wearing red bibs. It is anticipated that the last runner will cross the starting line in Hopkinton, Massachusetts, at 11:00 am. The race will officially end at 6:00 pm.

(U) The Boston Marathon will cover a twenty-six mile course starting in Hopkinton, Massachusetts, traveling through Ashland, Framingham, Natick, Wellesley, Newton, and Brookline, before finishing in Boston. As in years past, the 117th Boston Marathon is expected to draw more than one million spectators along the route, with several hundred thousand gathering in Boston to watch the finish of the race.

(U) The Boston Athletic Association has limited the field to 27,000 official entrants. This projection does not include the estimated 3,000 unofficial entrants or “bandits.” There will be numerous world class athletes from various countries participating in the event. As always, due to the race’s popularity, there is the possibility of high profile entrants participating in this year’s event.

(U//~~FOUO~~) Security for the event will primarily be the responsibility of the Massachusetts State Police (MSP) and the following towns involved in the race: Hopkinton, Ashland, Natick, Wellesley, Newton, Brookline, and Boston. The Boston Office of the FBI will provide

[REDACTED]

b7E

(U) No dignitaries are expected to be in attendance at the Boston Marathon. However, this is subject to change up to the start of the event, as organizers have regularly invited high-profile individuals to the event. Coordination between all agencies will be done in advance to ensure the safety and security of any dignitaries or high-profile individuals present at this venue. [REDACTED]

b7E

[REDACTED]

<sup>1</sup> (U) [REDACTED]

b7E

**(U) Threats to Sports Venues**

(U//~~FOUO~~) The FBI and DHS released Joint Intelligence Bulletin [REDACTED]

b7E

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED] In addition [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

(U//~~FOUO~~) The Boston Marathon is [REDACTED] event that will have a large number of spectators at various locations throughout the marathon route. There will be [REDACTED]

b7E

[REDACTED] thus creating [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

**(U) International Terrorism Threat**

(U//~~FOUO~~) **The FBI has no credible information concerning a threat by groups or individuals to the 2013 Boston Marathon.** [REDACTED]

b7E

(U//~~FOUO~~) Since the 11 September 2001 attacks, Al-Qaeda and affiliated terrorist groups have [REDACTED] These have included [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

b7E

(U//~~FOUO~~) [REDACTED] for the Boston Marathon.

b7E

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
(U//~~FOUO~~) [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

b7E

<sup>2</sup> (U//~~FOUO~~) Joint FBI-DHS Intelligence Bulletin [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

b7E

(U//~~FOUO~~) In addition to [REDACTED]

b7E

- (U//~~FOUO~~) On 3 March 2013, a suspect was arrested in Portland Oregon on charges of conspiracy to provide material support and resources to terrorists.<sup>3</sup>
- (U//~~FOUO~~) On 8 February 2013, a suspect was arrested in San Jose California after allegedly attempting to detonate what he believed to be a car bomb parked next to a bank in Oakland, California.<sup>4</sup>
- (U//~~FOUO~~) On 11 December 2012, two suspects were arrested for conspiring to provide material support to terrorists. They had formulated a plan to travel overseas together for the purpose of waging violent jihad.<sup>5</sup>

#### (U) Domestic Terrorism Threat

(U//~~FOUO~~) The FBI has no credible information indicating threats against the 2013 Boston Marathon from any domestic or anti-government individual or group.

(U//~~FOUO~~) [REDACTED]

b7E

(U//~~FOUO~~) It is also important to note that the Boston Marathon occurs on the Massachusetts State Holiday of Patriots Day, a day in which the Commonwealth of Massachusetts recognizes and commemorates the first battle of the Revolutionary War. Patriots Day is also the anniversary of the Branch Davidians Compound fire in Waco, Texas, in 1993 and the Oklahoma City bombing of the Alfred P. Murrah Federal Building in 1995. [REDACTED]

b7E

<sup>3</sup> (U//~~FOUO~~) Oregon Based individual Arrested for Providing Material Support to Terrorists. 5 March 2013

<sup>4</sup> U//~~FOUO~~ Joint FBI/DHS Bulletin: [REDACTED]

b7E

<sup>5</sup> (U//~~FOUO~~) Joint FBI/DHS Bulletin: "Two Alabama Based US Citizens Arrested on Terrorism Charges." 11 December 2012

**(U) The Lone Offender Threat**

~~(U//FOUO)~~ The FBI has not identified any specific lone offenders or extremist groups who pose a terrorist threat to the 2013 Boston Marathon.

~~(U//FOUO)~~ The current evolving and diversified homeland threat environment and recent incidents involving small arms operations in the United States and abroad demonstrate the need for continued vigilance and awareness. [REDACTED]

b7E

~~(U//FOUO)~~ [REDACTED]

b7E

- ~~(U//FOUO)~~ On 14 December 2012, one suspect fatally shot 20 children and six adult staff members at the Sandy Brook Elementary School in Newtown, Connecticut. The suspect had killed his mother at their nearby Newtown residence before driving to the school. The suspect committed suicide after the school shootings.<sup>8</sup>
- ~~(U//FOUO)~~ On 11 December 2012, one suspect shot and killed two people and wounded a third at a crowded shopping mall in Clackamas, Oregon. The suspect committed suicide after the shootings.<sup>9</sup>
- ~~(U//FOUO)~~ On 5 August 2012, a mass shooting took place at a Sikh religious temple in Oak Creek, Wisconsin. The suspect, a white supremacist, shot and killed six people and wounded four others. The suspect committed suicide after the shootings.<sup>10</sup>
- ~~(U//FOUO)~~ On 20 July 2012, a mass shooting occurred inside the Century movie theater in Aurora, Colorado, during the midnight screening of the film "The Dark Knight Rises." The suspect was dressed in tactical clothing and set off a tear gas grenade before shooting into the audience with multiple weapons killing 12 people and injuring 58 others. The suspect was arrested outside the cinema minutes later.<sup>11</sup>

<sup>6</sup> ~~(U//FOUO)~~ Joint Intelligence Bulletin FBI/DHS "Use of Small Arms: Examining Lone Shooters and Small Unit Tactics" 16 August 2011

<sup>7</sup> IBID

<sup>8</sup> (U) Open Source Reporting

<sup>9</sup> (U) Open Source Reporting

<sup>10</sup> ~~(U//FOUO)~~ Open Source and FBI Bulletin "Lone Offender Targets Sikh Temple" dated 5 August 2012.

<sup>11</sup> ~~(U//FOUO)~~ Joint FBI-DHS Bulletin [REDACTED]

b7E

**(U) Attempts to Penetrate Secured Areas**

(U//~~FOUO~~) The potential for [REDACTED]

b7E

[REDACTED] is a concern for any public event. Of particular concern is [REDACTED]

(U//~~FOUO~~) It is known that [REDACTED]

(U//~~FOUO~~) Security personnel should remain vigilant in their observations of people who are [REDACTED]



(U) Assessment Summary

(U//~~FOUO~~) At this time, the FBI has no information regarding a credible terrorist threat to the 2013 Boston Marathon, [REDACTED]

b7E

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED] It is also important for law enforcement to recognize that [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] This factor, coupled with the [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] Law enforcement should also recognize that the [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

(U) Intelligence Gaps

(U//~~FOUO~~) [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

b7E

(U//~~FOUO~~) [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

(U//~~FOUO~~) [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

(U//~~FOUO~~) [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

(U//~~FOUO~~) **Administrative Note:** Information contained in this Special Event Threat Assessment is for official use only. No portion of this assessment should be released to the media or the general public. Release of this material could adversely affect or jeopardize investigative activities. Specific comments, questions, or suggestions about the content of this product should be directed to the FBI Boston Intelligence Branch at

b7E

**Distribution**

SACS/ASACs

FBI Boston JTTF

FBI Intranet

LEO (~~Unclassified/Law Enforcement Sensitive Products Only~~)

~~New England Federal, State, and Local Law Enforcement Partners~~



b7E

## FBI Customer Satisfaction Survey

Please take a moment to complete this survey and help evaluate the quality, value, and relevance of our intelligence product. Your response will help us serve you more effectively and efficiently in the future. Thank you for your cooperation and assistance.

### Customer and Product Information

Intelligence Product:

Title: 2013 Boston Marathon\_\_\_\_\_

Report Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Dated: 1 April 2013\_\_\_\_\_

Customer Agency: FBI\_\_\_\_\_

### Relevance to Your Intelligence Needs

1. The product increased my knowledge of an issue or topic. (Check one)

\_\_\_5. Strongly Agree  
\_\_\_4. Somewhat Agree  
\_\_\_3. Neither Agree or Disagree  
\_\_\_2. Somewhat Disagree  
\_\_\_1. Strongly Disagree

### Actionable Value

2. The product helped me decide on a course of action. (Check one)

\_\_\_5. Strongly Agree  
\_\_\_4. Somewhat Agree  
\_\_\_3. Neither Agree or Disagree  
\_\_\_2. Somewhat Disagree  
\_\_\_1. Strongly Disagree

**Timeliness Value**

3. The product was timely to my intelligence needs. (Check one)

- ☐ 5. Strongly Agree
- ☐ 4. Somewhat Agree
- ☐ 3. Neither Agree or Disagree
- ☐ 2. Somewhat Disagree
- ☐ 1. Strongly Disagree

Comments (if any):

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---